

**CLAIM(S)**

We claim :

- 5    1. A process for preparing a nonwoven sheet comprising point bonding the sheet on both sides by passing said sheet between embossing rolls at a combination of bonding temperature, pressure and residence time such that the majority of bond points are not bonded to the point of translucency.
- 10    2. The process of claim 1, wherein a cross-sectional area of point bonding on each side of said sheet is from about 10-20% of the sheet area.
- 15    3. The process of claim 1, wherein each of said embossing rolls has from 50-80 bosses/cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 20    4. The process of claim 2, wherein and the cross-sectional area of bonding on each side of said sheet is from about 13-17 % of the sheet area.
- 25    5. The process of claim 3, wherein said embossing rolls have from 60-70 bosses/cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 30    6. The process of claim 1, wherein the bonding pressure is from about 5-75 kN/m<sup>2</sup> of bonded area.
7. The process of claim 1, wherein the residence time of a boss on said sheet is less than 55 milliseconds.
- 35    8. A nonwoven sheet material which has been point bonded on both sides of said sheet, wherein the bond points are not bonded to the point of translucency.
- 35    9. The nonwoven sheet of claim 8, wherein bond points encompass about 10-20% of the area of each side of the sheet.

10. The nonwoven sheet of claim 8, which is a flash spun film-fibril sheet having a Gurley Hill porosity of less than about 4.5 sec and a hydrostatic head of at least about 100 cm.
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11. The nonwoven sheet of claim 8, having Handle-O-Meter softness of no greater than about 12 grams.
- 10 12. The nonwoven sheet of claim 8, that has from 50-80 bond points/cm<sup>2</sup> on each side of said sheet.
- 15 13. The nonwoven sheet of claim 8, having from 60-70 bond points/cm<sup>2</sup> on each side of said sheet, said bond points on each side of said sheet encompassing about 13-17% of the area of the sheet.
14. The nonwoven sheet of claim 10, which has a work to break of at least about 5 N-cm.
- 20 15. The nonwoven sheet of claim 8, having a ribbed point bonding pattern on both sides of the sheet.
- 25 16. A nonwoven sheet made by a process comprising point bonding the sheet on both sides by passing said sheet between embossing rolls at a combination of bonding temperature, pressure and residence time such that the majority of bond points are not bonded to the point of translucency.
- 30 17. The nonwoven sheet of claim 16, wherein a cross-sectional area of point bonding on each side of said sheet is from about 10-20% of the sheet area.
- 35 18. The nonwoven sheet of claim 17, which is a flash spun film-fibril sheet having a Gurley Hill porosity of less than about 4.5 sec and a hydrostatic head of at least about 100 cm.
19. The nonwoven sheet of claim 18, having Handle-O-Meter softness of no greater than about 12.

20. The nonwoven sheet of claim 19, which has a work to break of at least about 5 N-cm.

5 21. A bed linen material made of a nonwoven sheet according to claim  
8.

~ 22. An article of protective apparel made of a nonwoven sheet  
according to claim 8.

10 23. An operating room drape made of a nonwoven sheet according to  
claim 8.

24. The nonwoven sheet according to claim 8, which has a A.A.T.C.C.  
15 Crockmeter surface stability greater than 10 strokes.